

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application, of which claims 8 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-19 stand rejected, and claims 20-25 stand allowed.

Claims 8 and 17 were objected to as having no antecedent basis for “said collar”. Claims 8 and 17 have been amended so that these claims now depend from claims 7 and 16, respectively, which claims recite “a collar”.

The drawings were objected to for the reason that the lead line from reference number 12 did not point to a specific element in Figure 1. Enclosed herewith is a replacement drawing sheet for Figure 1 wherein the lead line from reference number 12 has been extended so that it touches the appropriate element. The Examiner is requested to approve the replacement drawing sheet.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitani (U.S. Patent No. 6,224,390) in view of Capp (U.S. Patent No. 4,718,854). Reconsideration is requested.

Independent claims 1 and 12 relate to an electrical connector having a base portion configured for stationary mounting to a circuit board, and an interface portion received within the base portion. The interface portion has at least one lug configured to be driven by a rotatable part of a mating connector. The interface portion is connected for rotation relative to the base portion when a predetermined torque is applied to the interface portion by the rotatable part driving the at least one lug, thereby limiting the torque that is transmitted to the base portion by the interface portion.

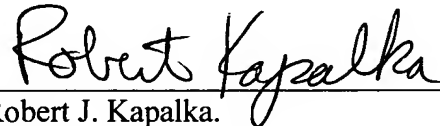
Mitani discloses an electrical connector having a base portion 30 and an interface portion 10, but Mitani does not disclose the interface portion having at least one lug configured to be driven by a rotatable part of a mating connector. In fact, the electrical connector of Mitani is not designed to mate with a rotatable part, so there would be no reason for Mitani to add such a lug. The Mitani connector is designed to mate strictly with a push-on style connector that does not have a rotatable part.

The Examiner points to Capp for disclosing an interface portion having at least one lug. It is not clear to applicant which element of Capp the Examiner considers to be a lug. Capp discloses (Figure 1) an outer shell 21 having ribs 73 and also something that appears to be a projection (unnumbered) close to the right-hand end of the outer shell. Capp discloses that the

ribs 73 are received in slots 71 of grounding pin contacts 24 to align the grounding pin contacts to the shell (column 6, lines 22-31). Capp does not describe the unnumbered projection. In any event, Capp does not disclose or suggest that either the ribs 73 or the unnumbered projection are configured to be driven by a rotatable part of a mating connector. Similar to the Mitani connector, Capp only discloses a simple push-on style of connector which does not have any part that is rotatable. Therefore, there would be no reason for Capp to provide any sort of lug that is configured to be driven by a rotatable part of a mating connector, and the combination of Capp with Mitani does not result in an interface portion that is connected for rotation relative to a base portion when a predetermined torque is applied, as recited in applicant's claims.

For these reasons, independent claims 1 and 12 and the claims dependent thereon are believed to be allowable. Reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of all the claims, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert J. Kapalka", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

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